

TOP SECRET

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TO : American Embassy, MANILA

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR FROM U. ALEXIS JOHNSON

IN CONNECTION THREAT TO LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM US GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING TWICE MONTHLY U-2 PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE OF NORTH VIETNAM TO DETERMINE EXTENT COMMUNIST BUILDUP. PLANES IN PAST HAVE OPERATED FROM

[] IN VIEW REPORTED BUILDUP ON FUKIEN COAST []

[] THIS HAS MADE IT NECESSARY TEMPORARILY

BASE U-2'S TARGETED AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM AT BASE OTHER THAN []

[] IS MOST SUITABLE ALTERNATE LOCATION.

IN VIEW POSSIBILITY THAT INFORMATION ON BASING OF U-2'S AT []

[] REQUEST YOU INFORM []

THAT U-2'S WILL BE TEMPORARILY BASED THERE. WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY DIRECTLY TO ASK HIS EXPRESS PERMISSION FOR THIS DEPLOYMENT SINCE YOUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM WILL QUITE NATURALLY AFFORD HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE OBJECTION IF HE SO CHOOSES. INFORM DEPARTMENT SOONEST OF HIS

VIEWS. [] MAY WISH TO INFORM [] IN CONFIDENCE OF ABOVE.

DEPARTURE OF U-2'S FOR [] BEING HELD UP PENDING RECEIPT

OF WORD FROM YOU THAT [] HAS BEEN NOTIFIED. PLANS CALL FOR TWO

U-2'S TO ARRIVE [] ON OR ABOUT JULY 11 AND TO REMAIN UNTIL BASE

FACILITIES [] AGAIN BECOME AVAILABLE. IMPOSSIBLE AT PRESENT TIME

TO PREDICT WHEN THIS WILL OCCUR BUT YOU MIGHT STRESS ARRANGEMENTS AT []

[] ARE TEMPORARY AND URGENTLY NEEDED ARRANGEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF US EFFORT

IN BEHALF OF FREE WORLD.

STATE review(s) completed.

Clearances:

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INR/DDC - Mr. Scott G - Mr. Johnson

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